

A NEW SPECIES OF RHODODENDRON (ERICACEÆ)  
FROM NEW GUINEA

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ABSTRACT: A new species of *Rhododendron* sect. *Vireya* subsect. *Solenovireya*, *R. roseiflorum*, recently discovered in Irian Jaya, is described.

RÉSUMÉ : Description d'une nouvelle espèce de *Rhododendron* sect. *Vireya* subsect. *Solenovireya*, *R. roseiflorum*, récemment découverte en Irian Jaya.

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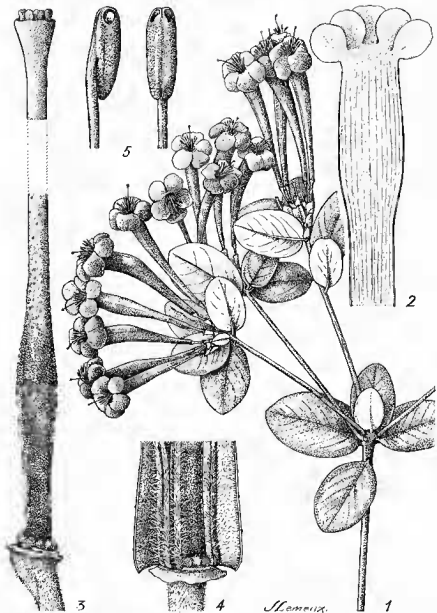
Among the collections made by J. RAYNAL during the King Leopold III Expedition to Irian Jaya in 1973 were two numbers of an undescribed species of *Rhododendron* sect. *Vireya* subsect. *Solenovireya*. Like other species of this subsection, these specimens have a long, tubular corolla and flat, thin scales with a small central area and a lobed margin, although in this species the lobing is not very pronounced (see also SLEUMER, 1973, p. 368). Species with pink flowers and ovaries and styles that lack unicellular hairs are very uncommon in this group, and *R. roseiflorum* may readily be distinguished from the other species in the subsection by the characters given in the diagnosis below. *Rhododendron roseiflorum* keys out as *R. ruttenii* J. J. Smith in SLEUMER (1966); the two species may be distinguished by the dichotomy below, to be inserted in the key on p. 547 in SLEUMER, *loc. cit.*

- 3a. Corolla 3-3.5 cm long; filaments laxly hairy. . . . . *R. ruttenii*  
3a. Corolla at least 5 cm long; filaments densely hairy in the lower half. *R. roseiflorum*

***Rhododendron roseiflorum* P. F. Stevens, sp. nov.**

*A speciebus aliis Rhododendri sectionis Vireyæ subsectionis Solenovireyæ lamina minus quam 3 cm lata, corolla rosea 5,3-7,8 cm longa, ovario styloque lepidotis sed pills unicellularibus haud præditis, differt.*

*Frutex terrestris 3 m altus, vel epiphyticus. Ramuli subteretes 1,5-2,5 mm diametro, juventute sparse lepidoti (lepidibus planis, marginibus subintegris vel obtuse vadoseque incisus, usque ad 0,07 mm diametro). Folia 3-7 subverticillata ad innovationis apices disposita; petiolus 2-7 mm longus, subpersistente lepidotis; lamina elliptica vel ovalis, 1,7-8,5 cm longa, 1-2,9 cm lata, apice cuneata vel late rotundata, basi vadose cordata vel cuneata, margine plana vel leviter recurvata, utrinque lepidibus subdissitis prædita, costa supra impressa infra leviter elevata, nervis lateralibus 4-7 paribus versus marginem arcuatis, supra elevatis (centro sulcatis), infra elevatis, reti venarum supra obscuro infra leviter elevato. Inflorescentiæ terminales 5-8-floræ, perulis marginibus laciniatis (laciniis sub-*



Pl. 1. — *Rhododendron roseiflorum* P. F. Stev. (*J. Raynal 17672*): 1, flowering branch, general view  $\times 1/2$ ; 2, corolla opened lengthwise  $\times 1$ ; 3, ovary and stigma  $\times 6$ ; 4, base of flower, corolla opened, showing filaments densely hairy  $\times 8$ ; 5, stamens, side and front view  $\times 6$ . — Drawing by J. LEMEUX.

glandulosis), perulis exterioribus ovatis, ca. 5 mm longis et latis, apicibus mucronatis, perulis versus interiorem usque ad 12 mm longis et 5 mm latis, apicibus retusis, interdum mucronulatis, perulis interioribus subtiliwearibus, usque ad 14 mm longis et 2 mm latis, apicibus subrotundatis; pedicelli 0,8-1,5 cm longi, 0,4-0,9 mm lati, lepidibus pilis unicellularibusque praediti. Calyx oblique disciformis, vix 5-lobulatus, ca. 1,8 mm latus, extus lepidibus pilis unicellularibusque praeditus, intus glaber; corolla roscea, tubularis (versus apicem leviter expansa, ad orem leviter contracta), adaxialiter curvata, 5,3-7,8 cm longa et 4,3-8,2 mm lata (ad orem 3,5-7,5 mm lata), extus sparse lepidota, intus pilis brevibus unicellularibus praesertim basin versus praedita, lobis 5, patentibus, 7,5-10,5 mm longis, apicibus rotundatis vel leviter retusis; stamina 10, filamentis 6,5-7,6 cm longis dimidiis inferioribus pilis densis albis unicellularibus praeditis, antheris 2,6-3,5 mm longis; discus extus glaber, intus pilis unicellularibus praeditus; ovarium 7-9,5 mm longum dense lepidotum; stylus 5,8-8,2 cm longus, lepidotus (apicem versus lepidibus dissitis); stigma demum exserta, 1-1,4 mm lata. Capsula haud cognita.

TYPE : *J. Raynal 17672*, Irian Jaya, contreforts S du Mt Carstenz, cité minière de Tembapura, vallée en amont de la ville, 2100 m, 11.5.1973 (holo-, P!; iso-, A! BO, BR).

PARATYPE : *J. Raynal 17580*, Irian Jaya, S du Mt Carstenz, environs de la station radio du Mile 64, vers Tembapura, 2700 m, 5.5.1973, P!

The two specimens cited above are very similar in details of the flower, but their leaves are rather different. *J. Raynal 17672* has oval leaf blades less than 4.5 cm long that are broadly rounded at the apex and broadly rounded to subcordate at the base; *J. Raynal 17580* has leaf blades up to 8 cm long that are cuneate both at the apex and at the base.

#### REFERENCES

- SLEUMER, H., 1966. — Ericaceae (part), *Flora Malesiana* 1 (6) : 469-668.  
SLEUMER, H., 1973. — New species and noteworthy records of *Rhododendron* in Malesia (Ericaceae), *Blumea* 21 : 357-376.